

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143289

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 RSC-01 /014 R

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DRAFTED BY:SCI/AE:RTWEBBER

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P 202205Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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FOR USAEC SCIREP

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE JULY 20, FROM DUBLIN  
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EI

SUBJ: ALLEGEDLY STOLEN RADIOACTIVE CYLINDER

DEPT PASS DEPT OF COMMERCE; AEC; AND HOLZAPFEL IWE/USIA

1. A RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE, BEING USED SOME 30 MILES OFF  
LRK COAST, WAS APPARENTLY STOLEN FROM OIL RIG GLOMAR  
NORTH SEA (UNDER CONTRACT TO MARATHON OIL) AROUND  
JULY 14. ISOTOPE WAS KEPT INSIDE CYLINDER WHICH BLOCKED  
RADIOACTIVE EMISSIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS OVERLOOKED  
OR DOES NOT REALIZE FACT THAT CORPORATION DOING  
DRILLING IS CONTRACTEE OF MARATHON, REFERRING ONLY TO  
"MARATHON OIL COMPANY, AN AMERICAN GROUP," AS RESPONSIBLE  
PARTY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 143289

2. FOLLOWING INSISTENT PRESS INQUIRIES, EMBASSY

CONTACTED RALPH TRIMBLE, DIRECTOR OF MARATHON FOR IRELAND, WHO STATED THAT APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICES WERE ALERTED AND ARE BEING KEPT APPRISED OF SEARCH RESULTS. IRISH POLICE ASSISTING IN SEARCH. "IRISH TIMES" CLAIMS THAT A NEARBY IRISH NAVAL BASE AND THE MARINE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER KNEW NOTHING OF INCIDENT AS LATE AS THREE DAYS AFTER OCCURENCE, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT SEE RELEVANCE OF THIS ASSOCIATION. EMBASSY INQUIRED WHETHER AEC HAD BEEN INFORMED OF LOSS AND TRIMBLE REPLIED THERE WAS "NO LEGAL NEED TO DO SO BUT THAT AS A MATTER OF COURTESY THE AEC WOULD BE NOTIFIED IF ISOTOPE IS NOT RECOVERED, SINCE ISOTOPE WAS OBTAINED FROM AEC AND IS SERIALIZED." HE ADDED THAT REPORT WOULD BE FORWARDED THROUGH DEPT OF COMMERCE. TRIMBLE DECLINES DISCUSS CASE WITH JOURNALISTS, REFERRING THEM TO IRISH PR FIRM USED BY MARATHON. THIS PROCEDURE TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY TO JOURNALISTS WHO NOW CALL EMBASSY FOR INFO.

3. WHILE MARATHON OFFICIALS DOWNPLAY INCIDENT IRISH JOURNALISTS PREPARED, IN TRUE SCIENCE FICTION FASHION, TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT THEY CALL "BIZARRE AND PUZZLING INCIDENT" THAT IS "HIGHLY DANGEROUS." "IRISH TIMES" SPECULATES THAT ISOTOPE WAS STOLEN BY "ONE OF THE MANY GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE EXPLOITATION OF IRISH MINERAL WEALTH BY FOREIGN INTERESTS." SENSATIONALIST "EVENING HERALD" TOLD EMBOFF IT PLANS TO PHONE AEC IN GERMANTOWN DIRECTLY, LATER TODAY, ALTHOUGH WE DISCOURAGED THEM FROM DOING SO. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, IF CALL IS RECEIVED, AEC RESPOND THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF SITUATION AND EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE IS BEING DONE. SORENSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES, THEFTS  
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**TAGS:** TGEN, EI  
**To:** EC BRUSSELS  
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